



Okanogan County Health District

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Quarterly Communicable Disease Newsletter

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Washington State Influenza Update

Washington: State influenza surveillance is showing a moderate rise in the number of positive influenza isolates among patients of Washington sentinel physicians. Sixteen counties have had one or more positive influenza isolates with 66% being influenza A and 34% influenza B.

Washington State Positive Influenza Isolates by County October 1, 2000-January 18, 2001

County	Number	Percent Total
Challam	1	1.3
Clark	4	5.2
Franklin	1	1.3
Jefferson	1	1.3
King	40	51.9
Kitsap	3	3.9
Mason	1	1.3
Pend Oreille	1	1.3
Pierce	3	3.9
Skagit	1	1.3
Snohomish	3	3.9
Spokane	10	13.0
Stevens	2	2.6
Whatecom	3	3.9
Whitman	1	1.3
Yakima	2	2.6
Total	77	100%

In Washington State and the nation, the predominate influenza strains are influenza A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus and B/Beijing/184/93-like virus.

Six Noninfectious Conditions Newly Added to List of Notifiable Conditions

Washington State Board of Health has approved a sweeping revision of the notifiable conditions regulations. This revision consolidates nine different regulatory schemes for disease surveillance into a single, integrated regulatory framework.

Noninfectious conditions newly included in the Regulatory framework are, birth defects, blood lead levels, cancer (See WAC 246-102), hospitalized burns, occupational asthma, and pesticide poisoning. These conditions are included because the scope of public health epidemiology has changed in recent years. Public health authorities will use the information provided in reports to perform intervention activities. Notification requirements for these and other conditions are detailed in the revised regulations (chapter 246-101- Notifiable Conditions of the Washington Administrative Code) at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/os/policy/246-101.htm>

The OCHD will be distributing the new list of Notifiable conditions during January 2001. Questions---contact Lori Albert (509) 422-7156

Washington's new statewide Tobacco Quit Line fielded its first calls on November 15. It is designed to address concerns of health care providers by offering patients barrier-free access to high-quality tobacco cessation programs. Modeled after successful programs in Oregon and California, the Quit Line draws upon a sophisticated database and offers:

- Individual, in-depth counseling that includes motivation and problem-solving advice;

- Up-to-date information about pharmacological support;
- Information about cessation benefits offered by health plans;
- Information and referral to other cessation services, including local resources;
- A "Tobacco Quit Kit" containing custom-selected materials for each patient;
- Follow-up calls to some uninsured and Medicaid callers who used Quit Line services;
- Information for health care providers about cessation techniques and resources.

Washington Tobacco Quit Line & Information

1-877-270-STOP --- Calls are toll-free.

1-877-777-6534 --- TTY line for hearing impaired:

1-877- 2 NO FUME --- Spanish language line:

Hepatitis C: What Clinicians and Other Professionals Need to Know: An interactive web-based training launched on the Hepatitis Branch web site: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently premiered "Hepatitis C: What Clinicians and Other Professionals Need to Know", an interactive, web-based training program. This program provides users with up-to-date information on the epidemiology, diagnosis, and management of hepatitis C (HCV) infection and HCV-related chronic disease. Users can test their knowledge of the material through study questions at the end of each section and with case studies at the end program. By combining up-to-date clinical and epidemiological information with state of the art technology and graphics designed to enhance both the user's understanding of the material and the appearance of the program, this web-based training program provides a valuable educational tool to assist health professionals in preventing and managing HCV infection and HCV-related chronic disease. Continuing medical and nursing education credits are available free of charge upon completion of the training. The American Academy of Family Physicians will also grant their educational credits upon completion of training and filing with the Academy.

Okanogan County Communicable Disease Summary 1999 Compared to 2000

Disease	Total Cases 1999	Total Cases 2000
Campylobacter	2	4
Chlamydia	69	83
E. Coli 0157	1	2
Giardia	7	1
Gonorrhea	4	1
Hepatitis A		2
Hepatitis B		2
Hepatitis C	4	3
Herpes Simplex	5	11
Mumps	1	
Pertussis	2	9
Relapsing fever		1
Salmonellosis	3	2
Shigella		4
Trichinosis		1
Tuberculosis	3	2
Syphilis		1